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1972/11/02

SENSITIVE

SITUATION: PARIS TALKS
SUBJECT CATAGORY: SUMMARY

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

ANNOTATIONS:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE
FJK104
O 021420Z NOV 72
FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6369

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1050

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL FRANCE 20872

LIMDIS
SUBJ: 165TH PLENARY SESSION: IMMEDIATE SUMMARY REPORT
1. MADAME BINH, LOOKING UNUSUALLY GLUM AND DYSPEPTIC, CONDEMNED USG FOR BREACH OF ITS PROMISE BY DELAYING SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT REACHED, EXCORIATED THIEU AS OBSTACLE TO PEACE WHO MUST RESIGN, BUT AVOIDED SPECIFYING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF US DID NOT SIGN IMMEDIATELY, FOLLOWING THEMES DEVELOPED IN HER OCT. 30 PRESS CONFERENCE (USDEL 20700), SHE DISMISSED AS PRETEXT DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN SAIGON SINCE AS US CREATION THIEU COULD NOT BY HIMSELF OPPOSE DECISIONS MADE BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND SINCE US HAD ALWAYS ASSERTED THAT ITS PROPOSALS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED JOINTLY WITH GVN. US AIM WAS TO DEMAND MORE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH VIEW TO MODIFYING PROVISIONS AGREED UPON. MEANWHILE US WAS INTENSIFYING WAR (CONTINUOUS AIR-LIFT OF WAR MATERIEL WAS CITED IN THIS CONTEXT ONLY, NOT THAT OF PREPARING FOR CEASE-FIRE) WHILE GVN WAS STEPPING UP REPRESSIVE PROGRAMS, E.G., ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE "DETAINED PATRIOTS AND OPPONENTS" AND "SHOW THE FLAG" CAMPAIGN. PRG, SHE SAID, HAD SHOWN MAXIMUM GOODWILL, USG ACTIONS WERE CREATING "VERY SERIOUS SITUATION" IN NEGOTIATIONS, AND US SHOULD SEEK NO PRETEXT WHATSOEVER TO DELAY SIGNING AGREEMENT.

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

HOLDRIDGE,N:PONTE,LL

PSN:050040 DTG:02142 DECLASSIFIED Authority E012958 By (WSJ) NARA Date 3/6/00 TOR:3071507

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

2. VY (SUBSTITUTING FOR XUAN THUY) WAS EVEN MORE AMBIGUOUS AS TO CONSEQUENCE OF US DILATORY TACTICS, ALTHOUGH BOTH ON ENTERING MAJESTIC AND IN REBUTTAL PERIOD HE INTONED THAT "PEACE WOULD BE REIGNING TODAY HAD US SIGNED ON OCT. 31." LIKE BINH, VY SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN SAIGON AS IMPLAUSIBLE ON THEIR FACE, GIVEN THIEU'S DEPENDENCE ON US, WHICH "COMMANDS AND DECIDES." LIKE BINH, HE HAD SOME LOGICAL DIFFICULTY IN ACCOUNTING FOR THIEU'S "ARROGANCE" IN RAISING QUESTIONS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN SETTLED, AND ARGUED THAT FOR US TO GRANT THIEU "EVERY LATITUDE" TO SABOTAGE AGREEMENT REVEALED US INTENTION TO REFUSE TO END ITS INVOLVEMENT AND MAINTAIN THIEU ADMINISTRATION SO AS TO PROLONG WAR.
3. PHONG, WITHOUT DIRECTLY REFERRING TO AGREEMENT, BORE DOWN HARD ON FAILURE OF DRV TO RESPOND TO HIS PREVIOUS QUESTIONS ON RELATIONSHIP OF NVA PRESENCE IN SVN TO SETTLEMENT. DID THEIR SILENCE ON THIS POINT IMPLY DRV CLAIMED RIGHT TO STATION FORCES PERMANENTLY AND "INTERVENE IN SVN INTERNAL AFFAIRS? HE ASKED WHAT DRV INTENTIONS WERE ON RESTORING DMZ AS LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN SVN AND NVN FORCES AND BETWEEN SVN AND NVN PENDING REUNIFICATION. AS TO POLITICAL QUESTIONS, PHONG CONTRASTED THEIR APPROACH OF DIVIDING POWER "ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BETWEEN THIS OR THAT GROUP" WITH PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION.
4. AMB. PORTER SAID REMAINING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES REQUIRING RESOLUTION OR CLARIFICATION SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED AS PRETEXTS FOR DELAY BUT IN OUR VIEW COULD BE SETTLED QUICKLY BY EFFORT AND GOODWILL. EXCESSIVE HASTE IN SETTLING FINAL ELEMENTS WOULD JEOPARDIZE WORK THAT HAD BEEN DONE SINCE OCT. 8.
5. AFTER DISULTORY REBUTTAL DURING WHICH MADAME BINH FIRED ADDITIONAL SALVO AT THE "FURIOUS AND WARLIKE DICTATOR THIEU, PHONE NOTED IT WAS ABSURD TO DEMAND SIGNATURE WITHOUT SETTLING EXISTING DIFFERENCES, AND AMB. PORTER REMINDED VY THAT THEY KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE. SESSION ADJOURNED ON VY'S MOTION UNTIL NOV. 9.
GDS
PORTER

BT

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Authority E012958
By (WSJ) NARA Date 3/6/00